

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 7, Issue 10

March 2018

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Bridgers Drug Store

Written by Promotions Team of Historic Marion Revitalization Association:



Bridgers Drug Store opened on Main Street in Marion in 1935 and its marquee sign that illuminates Main Street has grown to be a staple to Marion's Streetscape. The current owners, Mike Thompson and Kelli Noland, purchased the business in 1980 from O.M. Mabry, an employee of the original owners E.B. Bridgers and Lee Hewitt. The business's footprint expanded with the purchase of the adjacent building that previously housed Marion National Bank for decades. This space now serves as a unique gift shop offering home decor, apparel, essential oils and collectible

items. Bridgers has 12 employees and each one takes pride in offering personal service while striving to serve their customers in a timely manner.

When choosing a pharmacy, owner Kelli Nolan recommends choosing a pharmacy with which you are comfortable in communicating your needs. Utilizing one pharmacy for your prescriptions is important for your safety because it allows your pharmacist to monitor all of your medications for possible drug interactions and side effects and provide comprehensive prescription care. Bridgers Drug Store is open Monday - Friday 8:30 to 5:30 and Saturdays 8:30 - 12:00, so visit them for your prescription and retail needs. You can contact Bridgers at (843) 423-2682 or visit their Facebook page for more information.



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VOTE!! Election Set for April 10th

The Board of Education for seats in Districts 1, 3, 4 and 5 will be on Tuesday, **April 10th**. The state's new Voter ID law, requires that each voter has an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it. The last day to register to vote in the April election is **March 11th**. To find out more about having a proper ID to vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission located at 2523 E. Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268.

Additionally, political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including the right of way.

Signs picked up for being improperly posted may be collected at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street and can be claimed by the candidates.

Chamber Community Service Award



Mrs. Lina Rice, the 2018 recipient of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, has named the Azalea Garden Club as her charity of choice. Through the generosity of Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, a check was presented to Mrs. Rice to be used to help defray the cost of markers to be placed at the maple tree planted honoring the memory of General

Francis Marion and to recognize the creation of the children's garden at the Marion County Public Library. The presentation was made on January 31, 2018. On hand for the presentation were: Karen Grice, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank and Mrs. Lina Rice. Mrs. Rice received the 2018 Community Service Award at the Annual Meeting of the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

Donation to Beautification Projects

Dr. Gary McKeel and J. Harold Cunningham, owners of Rosewood Manor, presented City of Marion Mayor Ashley Brady a check for \$2,000 dollars toward Beautification Projects. This check will help the Garden Club in maintaining and improving optics of Historic Downtown Marion. On



behalf of the Mayor Brady, City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Council and the citizens of Marion, thank you for this generous donation.



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday March 11th.

Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night March 10th.



March 2nd - 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Mullins Library.** Celebrating Dr. Seuss with a birthday party.

March 3rd - 9:00 a.m. **Marion County Sheriff.** First Annual MS Walk. Call Victim Advocate Tammy Erwin for details or to register a team at (843) 423-8389.

March 5th - 9:30, 10:00 or 10:00 a.m. **Mullins Library.** In-house storytimes.

March 7th - 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at The Grove Breakfast & Bed, 408 Harlee Place, Marion SC.

March 7th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunches** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by Shiloh United Methodist Church. Cost \$5 per person.

March 8th - 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. **Marion Library.** In-house storytimes.

March 10th - 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Leprechaun Leap. Withlacoochee Park. For more information contact Hometown Promotion & Event Planning, 843-431-8148 or 843-624-0309.

March 11th - Daylight Saving Time Begins/Spring Forward. **Also remember to change smoke alarm batteries.**

March 13th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

March 14th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by Door of Hope. Cost \$5 per person.

March 15th - 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Marion Library.** Family Crafter noon.

March 17th - 1:00 p.m. - "**Survivors Dinner**"- Woodmen Life building on Highway 76 and Pee Dee. For more information please call Debbie Erwin at 843-260-4483.

March 19th - 9:30, 10:00 or 10:00 a.m. **Mullins Library.** In-house storytimes.

March 20th - 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life Team Meeting at Carolinas Hospital Systems in Marion. Classroom A.

March 20th - Spring begins.

March 21st - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by (tentative) First United Methodist Church. Cost \$5 per person.

March 22nd - 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. **Marion Library.** In-house storytimes.

March 24th - Marion Recreation Department will have Opening Day Ceremonies for Baseball/Softball on Saturday morning, at Green Street Park. Times will be announced later.

March 24th - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Main Street Commons.** Spring Market, 229 N. Main Street.

March 24th - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Marion Library.** Deborah Rogers, local teacher published author, will be doing an author's visit.

March 28th - 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Marion Library.** Join us for outdoor games and an egg hunt.

Marion Residents...Please contact City Hall if you notice a streetlight is out or not working properly, or if a street sign near your home is missing. The nearest street address and pole number should be reported to Ainsley Sanders at asanders@marionsc.gov or 843-423-5961.

Drop-Off Site for Worn US Flags

American Legion Post 89 and Mullins VFW Post 6122 have identified Mullins Hardware on Gapway Street in Mullins as the designated site for anyone wishing to drop off worn or tethered United States Flags. The flags will be gathered by the posts' representatives for proper disposal at a later date.

Who Do I call for Help??

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

Mayor Ashley Brady, (843) 992-3773,
Alan Ammons, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
Lakesha Shannon City Clerk, Ext. 10
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
Ainsley Sanders, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
Elizabeth Gray, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writer & Publicist, Ext. 22
Kim Elliott, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
Chris Smith, Captain, (843) 423-8616
Marilyn Rogers, Investigator, (843) 423-8616
Tony Flowers, Investigator, (843) 423-8616
Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
Jackie Yates, Assistant Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Bridgers City's Employee of the Month



The City of Marion selected Glenn Bridgers as the January Employee of the Month. Glenn has worked in the Public Works Department since May 2005 and was named City Employee of the Year in 2012.

Glenn is known for his quiet demeanor and friendly smile. He is a hard worker who takes great pride in his work, which includes beautification projects such as planting trees and preparing flower beds, mowing grass in the summer and decorating the City for the Christmas season. Glenn also assists Public Works Director Winkie Fore with organizing and supervising that crews that prepare the City for special events, mow the grass and edge the sidewalks and fence lines across town, and clean and repair our storm drains.

"Glenn has always been one of our most dedicated and dependable employees," said City Administrator Alan Ammons.

The Mayor and Council recognized Glenn Bridgers for his positive attitude and significant contributions to the City of Marion during the February 13th City Council Meeting.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Marion Chamber Annual Meeting

The Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at Woodhaven. This year's meeting included a silent and live auction.



This year's recipient of the Community Service Award was Mrs. Lina Rice. An outstanding member of our community, she has been instrumental in assisting those in our community who are less fortunate and is working to make Marion a better community. She is involved in many civic and church activities. Mrs. Rice spent over 30 years in the public school system as a teacher and librarian and served as a role model for her students. The Marion Chamber was pleased to present Mrs. Rice the Community Service Award. Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank will make a contribution in Mrs. Rice's name to the charity of her choice in recognition of this honor.

The Chamber recognized Bennye King, owner of Bennye's Sandwich Shop as the Small Business of the Year. Mrs. King took an idea four years ago and her restaurant has become a favorite place to eat and socialize on Main Street.

In other business of the Chamber, incoming President Deborah Martin shared upcoming plans for 2018, and recognized outgoing board members for their service to the Chamber. Members rotating off of the Chamber board were Roseanne Black, Al Blake, Darrell Jameson, Jamon Jordan, and Jason Richardson. Officers and Board members for 2018 were recognized Vice-President-Betsy Atkinson, and Treasurer-Craig Martin.



For more information on the Marion Chamber of Commerce please contact the Marion Chamber of Commerce, the Depot, at 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway or call 423-3561.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Mrs. Nan Ham 503 Wilcox Avenue has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for February 2018. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mrs. Ham will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Relay for Marion County

We are looking for volunteers of all talents. If you or someone you know or love has been affected by cancer then this is your chance to help fight back against this disease. If you are an organizer, social media guru, people person, sales person, marketing, handyman/woman, logistical skills, have compassion and likes to help others, event planner, civic contacts, detailed, have lots of energy, leadership skills and may have a talent/gift not listed. We would love to see you at our monthly meetings. We always have a place for all volunteers. If you have any questions please email or call Debbie Erwin. [843-260-4483](tel:843-260-4483) or debbieerwin20@gmail.com.

We have our meetings at Carolinas Hospital System in Marion, Classroom A on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. Cancer survivors and caregivers meet at 5:30 to plan and discuss upcoming events specifically for you. If you are a cancer survivor or caregiver please contact Wanda Legett at [843-229-4031](tel:843-229-4031) or leggettWanda@yahoo.com.

Spring has begun!!

March 20th is the first day of SPRING!!!!

Volunteers to offer free tax help

The Marion County Collaborative Action Network offers free tax preparation services from January 22nd through April 6th. VITA free tax preparation site locations are open 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Locations are set on Southside Success Academy on 614 Eutaw Street, in Marion on Monday only; Centenary Community Center on Hwy 41-A in Centenary on Tuesday only; Troy-Johnson Learning Korner, 106 Gapway Street, Wednesday only. Contact for details, Ms. Cynthia Young at (843) 453-4488 or Mollie Bethea-Floyd at (843) 433-5022.

Mark your calendar, April 14th for The Fox84 Initiative for Boys Initiative For Boys 2nd Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk. For details contact Christopher Shelvin @ cshelvin@thefox84initiative.com or call 706-249-6199.

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"We Are Our Neighbors' Keepers"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

A-Team and the City of Marion need your help. No one knows our neighborhoods like we do. We have numerous street lights out all over town. Each of the poles have numbers on them. When you see a light out, please take the number down and report it to the city along with a general location. You can reach the city at 843-423-5961. Let's get the lights back on in the Swamp Fox City. I know as taxpayers, we feel we pay for the city to take care of these things, but believe me the city workers work hard. They can't see everything everywhere. With our shrinking tax base, they have to balance the city's needs along with a smaller budget. It is our responsibility as citizens to step up and make a positive difference, not just complain about what is not being done.

In February, we were fortunate to have Mayor Ashley Brady as our guest speaker. He briefed us on upcoming events in the city. Watch the Swamp Fox Scene so you don't miss out on the fun. The Mayor encouraged us to go by and see the improvements made to the Hike and Bike Trail. There has been a major sprucing up. He also shared information on the GPS units recently installed on a number of our police cars. We try to keep our meetings interesting and informative. Come out and join us on the first Monday of each month at the firehouse on East Bond St. We meet at 6:30 PM and try to keep the meeting to an hour. For more information, call Dolly @ 843-433-0941.

.....RECREATIONAL CORNER

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is **FREE** of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

City's Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

Grice's Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

City Rentals

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the NEW rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice's, Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium and Watsonia Recreation facilities. These facilities hold up to 150 people are equipped with warming kitchens, heating/air and restrooms. Also, Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter located on **Green Street** for those looking for an outside event. Make sure that you get your event booked as soon as possible. So to reserved your date for that special occasion give us a call at (843) 423-5410

Check us out online!

The City of Marion Recreation Department is on Facebook and online. For information and updates on games scheduling, cancellation and pictures. Visit the www.marionsc.gov web site. Find us under "Residents" and then click on "Recreation". To Find us on Facebook, visit **Marion Recreation Department!**

We getting ready for softball/baseball games. We hope to see you at our parks supporting our kids and coaches!!! Let the game begins.

Opening Day Ceremonies for Baseball and Softball, have been set!!!



Marion Recreation Department is planning to have Opening Day Ceremonies for spring sports on **Saturday, March 24th** at Green Street Park. Times are still to be announced. Everyone please mark your calendars to come out and enjoy friends, families, food and some ball and don't forget to show your support for the players and coaches.

For more information, call Kim Elliott (843) 423-5410 or find them on Marion Recreation Department Face Book.

The City of Marion Recreation Department will be hosting two district basketball tournaments on Saturday, March 3, 2018.

The 8U boys tournament will be playing in the AC Tollison Gymnasium. The 12U boys tournament will be held in the Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasiums. Games for both gyms will begin at 10:00 AM and will run all day.

Ping Pong Club

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

CDJ Aerobics

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday evening, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at CD Joyner. Taught by Ms. Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month. For information or details, call Recreation Department at 423-5410.

.....HIKE-BIKE TRAIL



City's employees at work

City of Marion employees are working hard to get the City's Hike Bike Trail ready for the Marion Run-fest and HMRA's Annual Chili Cook Off. The City of Marion employees work hard to keep downtown Marion looking beautiful. When you see our employees, please thank them for their hard



work and the great job they are doing. Thank you guys for all you do for the City of Marion. We appreciate your hard work and dedication.

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